GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:278
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
POVERTY LEVEL
DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a): whether poverty level in the country came down to 26 per cent during the decade ending in the year 2000;

(b): if so, the poverty level in the three decades ending in 1990, 1980 and 1970 respectively; and (

(c): the long term measures being taken to bring down the poverty level in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a): Yes Sir, the poverty level in the country has come down to 26 per cent in the year 1999-2000.

(b): The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The poverty estimates available for the years 1973-74, 1977-78, 1983, 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given below.

Year	Percentage of people Living Below the Poverty Line
1973-74	54.88
1977-78	51.32
1983	44.48
1987-88	38.86
1993-94	35.97
1999-2000	26.10

(c): There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are:
(i) acceleration of economic growth,
(ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and
(iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.